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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW: EGYPT FOCUSES ON MITTERRAND'S CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ
1. HIGHLIGHTS. PRINCIPAL JUNE 19 STORIES HIGHLIGHT MITTERRAND'S SEVERE CRITICISM OF PM BEGIN'S ACTIONS AS CREATING FRESH TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IS MINDEF ABU GHAZALA'S REPORTED
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STATEMENT THAT FRANCE IS MEETING EGYPT'S MILITARY NEEDS. EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL RESPONDS TO REPORTS THAT SAUDI MININFO DECLARED THAT EGYPT'S COMMITMENT TO CAMP DAVID ACCORDS GIVES ISRAEL SENSE OF SECURITY PERMITTING HER TO ACT AS SHE PLEASES. AHRAM DRAWS ATTENTION TO UNSC DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING ISRAELI RAID AND EFFORTS TO AVERT U.S. VETO. MEDIA REPORT ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EGYPT HAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED IMPLEMENTATION OF A NUMBER OF NORMALIZATION-RELATED AGREEMENTS BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S RAID ON THE IRAQI REACTOR. END HIGHLIGHTS.
2. MITTERRAND. CAIRO PRESS HIGHLIGHTS MITTERRAND'S CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S RAID ON IRAQI REACTOR. PAPERS
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NOTE ALSO FRENCH PRESIDENT'S DECLARED SUPPORT OF THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND HIS CALL FOR A DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE. ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO MITTERRAND'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT SIGN CONTRACT FOR SALE OF NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR UNLESS SURE IT WOULD BE USED FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES.

3. SAUDIS ON EGYPT AND CDA. ALL NEWSPAPERS TODAY GIVE PROMINENCE TO THE REPORTED STATEMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA'S MININFO THAT THE "NEUTRALIZATION" OF EGYPT, VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL, IS THE GREATEST DISASTER TO HAVE BEFALLEN THE ARABS. IN REACTION, AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS EXPRESSING EGYPT'S REGRET THAT SO FALSE AND SELF-DECIIVING A STATEMENT SHOULD BE ISSUED BY A RESPONSIBLE ARAB OFFICIAL. GOF OFFICIAL ADDED THAT EGYPT IS A FORCE FOR STABILITY IN THE ARAB WORLD. HE POINTED OUT THAT VARIOUS TROUBLES IN THE REGION (IRAQ-SYRIA, SYRIA-JORDAN, LIBYA IN AFRICA, ALGERIA-MOROCCO, ETC.) ARE NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS.

4. GHALI. ALL PAPERS REPORT MINSTATE GHALI'S STATEMENTS AT OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, INCLUDING HIS CALL FOR ADOPTING A RESOLUTION ON THE M.E. CRISIS. RECAPITULATING EGYPT'S STANCE ON JERUSALEM, PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, ETC.,GHALI REPORTEDLY SAID HE WILL PROVIDE THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH EGYPT'S "WHITE BOOK" ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT EGYPT WILL PUT FORWARD A FOUR-PART DRAFT RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE M.E. GENERALLY, JERUSALEM, ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON AND CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S IRAQ STRIKE.

5. ABU GHAZALA. AHRAM AND GUMHURRIYYA GIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO MINDEF ABU GHAZALA'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING TALKS WITH FRENCH MINDEF AND OTHER SENIOR FRENCH MILITARY OFFICIALS. ABU GHAZALA IS QUOTED AS SAYING HIS DISCUSSIONS DEALT WITH COOPERATION IN THE AIR DEFENSE FIELD AND POSSIBLE MANUFACTURE IN EGYPT OF FRENCH HELICOPTERS, ARMOURED VEHICLES AND TANKS. DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT'S ARMED FORCES, HE REPORTEDLY STATED, IS A DETTERENT TO ANY MILITARY ADVENTURE AGAINST THE ARAL NATION'S SECURITY.

6. OTHER NEWS. ALL PAPERS REPORT OCCURRENCE WEDNESDAY EVENING OF QUARREL BETWEEN A MUSLIM AND A CHRISTIAN FAMILY WHICH SPREAD INTO SERIOUS INTERCOMMUNAL INCIDENT IN CAIRO SUBURB OF SHUBRA. TWO PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED, 31 OTHERS WOUNDED, 42 ARRESTED AND SEVERAL PISTOLS SEIZED. AHRAM'S EDITIORIAL DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT AS NOT THE FIRST OF ITS TYPE AND DEFINITELY NOT THE MOST SERIOUS, BUT ADDS THAT SUCH IMPAIRMENT OF EGYPTIAN UNITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. (CAIRO 14555). WENDT